



State Representative Ed Gainey

Serving the 24th District

Wilkinsburg, Homewood, East Liberty, East Hills, Lincoln-Lemington, Larimer, North Point Breeze, Highland Park, Garfield and parts of Point Breeze and Stanton Heights

Summer 2018

Here To Serve You

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Committee Assignments:

- Appropriations
- Education
- Health
- Insurance
- Transportation

Memberships:

- Allegheny County Delegation
- At Risk Children & Families Caucus
- Early Childhood Education Caucus
- LGBT Equality Caucus
- PA HOPE Caucus, Co-Chairman
- PA Legislative Black Caucus
- PA SAFE Caucus
- Steel Caucus
- Women's Health Caucus

PA HOPE Caucus:

Website: www.pahopecaucus.com

Twitter: @PAHOPECaucus

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Standing in solidarity with the Grandview 5

As you may know, earlier this year five African-American women were golfing in York County when an employee of the golf course called police to say they were golfing too slowly, asking for the players to be removed and have their memberships refunded. Police were called twice.

The women faced racial and gender discrimination and it's appalling to think of the way they were treated. While prejudicial treatment is nothing new, it has certainly heightened under this current political climate.

In June, the women, known as the "Grandview 5," visited the Capitol. Alongside my colleagues, we stood up for them in solidarity against racism, sexism and injustice. Because of that incident, as well as others around the state, I plan to introduce a package of bills to combat false reports to law enforcement.



I spoke up against racism, hatred and bigotry, and stood with the Grandview 5 when they visited the Capitol.

My proposals include the following:

- **Ethnic intimidation:** Legislation would increase penalties for individuals who file a false police report with malicious intent toward another person based on race, national origin or color; and
- **Civil redress:** Legislation would encourage businesses to take proactive steps to discourage employees from filing ethnically motivated false reports by holding employers civilly liable for damages resulting from employee's violations of an individual's civil rights.

The Grandview 5 could have been any of us. These women are someone's mothers and grandmothers, sisters, daughters and friends. We are all equal, no matter what we look like or where we come from. Until we treat each other as such, I will continue to speak up.

Alongside parents, colleagues and other organizations across the commonwealth, I spoke at the Moms on the Hill event in May to discuss the need for commonsense gun laws and universal background checks.



Dear Neighbor,

This year is flying by fast and so many things have happened that it's often hard to keep up with it all. These are trying times for our nation, and I know it can be hard to remain optimistic.

The 2018-19 budget passed with no new taxes and there is more money allocated to fight opioids, for pre-K funding and for education. Furthermore, we're continuing to fight against hunger and poverty through the Capitol Hunger Garden.

Unfortunately, these things don't negate the issues that minorities are facing nationwide. In Pittsburgh, the Juneteenth celebration was solemn, as we marched for justice for Antwon Rose, an unarmed 17-year-old who was killed by police in East Pittsburgh. The death of Rose has affected me deeply and while I continue to fight for commonsense gun laws, other legislators and I have introduced legislation to bridge community and police relations.

In response to the racism encountered by two African-American men at a coffee shop in Philadelphia and for women at a golf course in York, Pa., I'm also proposing bills that would curb false reports to law enforcement. Additionally, I want my stance on immigration to be clear in that I do not support separation of families.

While the House is not in session until September, that doesn't mean I've stopped working. I want you to know that it is my honor and privilege to serve the 24th Legislative District and that I'm always advocating on your behalf!

I hope you are having a safe and fun summer!

Sincerely,

Ed Davey

We need gun reform now!

Even before the death of my sister that ended in violence two years ago, I saw a need for change. Now more than ever we need to raise awareness for sensible gun safety bills.

It's a fact that an overwhelming majority of Pennsylvanians support universal background checks and the gun violence crisis that we're facing now is not going to go away without legislators being proactive about it.

That's why I rallied for a "Day of Action on Gun Control" in May. My father, Jacob Talton, shared his experience with gun violence while discussing the murder of my sister and the effect it has had on her children. We also heard gut-wrenching testimony from young people, siblings and parents who have lost loved ones at the hands of someone with a gun.

As a member of the PA SAFE Caucus, I want to reiterate that I am not trying to take away anyone's guns or infringe upon a person's Second Amendment rights. Instead, I'm urging bipartisan support in passing commonsense gun laws in order to help save lives in schools, churches, movie theaters and all other public spaces.

I've also introduced H.B. 194, an assault weapons ban bill, that would prohibit the possession, purchase, transfer, use or manufacture of an assault weapon. Exceptions would include members of the military and law enforcement.

The penalty for violating this law would be a first-degree misdemeanor, up to five years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

I voted against hurting people who need safety nets

I voted and spoke out against a bill that would put an end to work waivers for individuals who receive food stamps through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). H.B. 1659 – which passed the House in June and is now in the Senate – would force able bodied adults who need food stamps for more than three months to work in some capacity in order to collect them.

It's a shame that we're constantly trying to punish people in need. Contrary to any myths, more than three quarters of families receiving food assistance already have at least one member working. Additionally, the people who are most likely to benefit from SNAP and other social support programs are children, the elderly and people who have disabilities living within those families.

This bill specifically targets people in poverty who are already struggling to provide for themselves and their loved ones. Work requirements won't put more people back to work; instead it provides additional barriers. The state would not save anything by enforcing this, as SNAP is paid for by the federal government.

The real issue we need to focus on is finding answers as to why so many people are currently working and still struggling to feed their families. To view my comments on this bill, please visit this site: <https://bit.ly/2uJwcOs>.



It was my pleasure to speak at the Sick Cell Advocacy Day at the Capitol. The sickle cell trait is more common in African-Americans and Hispanics. It is my hope that we can one day find a cure!



Young people from Pittsburgh traveled to Harrisburg and shared their personal stories of gun violence.



It was an honor to welcome students and staff from the Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy to the Capitol.

Testifying before the House Judiciary Committee

In response to gun crimes, I've introduced H.R. 837, which would direct the Joint State Government Commission to research gun violence as a public health crisis. The resolution has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

Earlier this year, I testified before the HJC about proposed legislation involving universal background checks. Unfortunately, the legislation failed to be reported out of the committee.

However, here is a list of bills that were approved by the committee:

- H.B. 1872: which would ban devices such as "bump stocks" that assist in rapid firing.
- H.B. 2060: which would ensure that domestic abusers be required to relinquish weapons to an appropriate authority.
- H.B. 2227: which would allow concerned family members and law enforcement to file for extreme risk protective orders to prohibit firearm possession by individuals who are at risk or causing harm to themselves or others.
- H.B. 273: which would allow people with mental or physical health concerns to voluntarily surrender their firearms.
- H.B. 2266 and H.B. 2267: which would require expedited reporting of mental health records to state police.

Improving police-community relations

When Antwon Rose was shot in the back by a police officer, it angered me. No parent should ever have to bury their own child.

In conjunction with Reps. Austin Davis, Jake Wheatley and Jordan Harris, and other House members from across the state, we have offered solutions on how to restore public trust and improve the professionalism of law enforcement.

The framework is centered on three main initiatives:

- Establishing a licensing board or commission, similar to nearly every other professional occupation from doctors and lawyers to barbers, that would be able to independently take action regarding an individual's ability to participate in that profession. Law enforcement should be no different.
- Creating a bipartisan caucus to bring policymakers together to offer ideas and best practices from across the commonwealth.
- Enacting legislation similar to laws that apply to teachers, so that any incidents or transgressions related to their employment can be shared with potential employers.

It is my hope that this legislation will be passed.

Honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

This year marked 50 years since the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated while standing on the balcony of his Lorraine Motel room in Memphis, Tenn. We will never forget his message of peace and love that was shared across all color lines.

I introduced H.R. 747, a resolution commemorating the death of King five decades ago, and it was unanimously adopted by the House in April. King was killed on April 4, 1968 at the age of 39.

Though his life was cut short, his memory lives on forever. We will always be indebted to him and his service to the Civil Rights movement, his advocacy and his work in the community.



The men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., in the House chamber after H.R. 747 was adopted. The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was a member of the fraternity.

Capitol Hunger Garden

In order to help reduce the number of families living in the commonwealth who don't have access to healthy foods, I proudly continue my support of the Capitol Hunger Garden.



The opening ceremony for the 2018 Hunger Garden, which provides healthy food to those in need.

The Capitol Hunger Garden is an annual bipartisan project to combat hunger and is now in its ninth year. Planted each year by master gardeners and volunteers on a 1,000-square-foot area of land next to the Capitol building, the garden produces 700 to 800 pounds of vegetables annually.

If we want to make sure our communities are eating healthy, it starts with making sure they have adequate meals at home and at school. I care about hunger and poverty in the commonwealth, and this is just one way in which we are helping to address those issues.



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STANDING UP FOR UNIONS

The Supreme Court decision in Janus vs. AFSCME was a vote against the side of protecting our unions. While I'm disappointed by the blow, I haven't lost hope.

As you know, I'm always going to side with the working class and the fight to get you higher wages, better health care, a boost in retirement savings and safer working conditions. For these reasons, I've co-sponsored legislation that would strengthen the collective bargaining unit.

Instead of requiring a two-tiered election process, the measure would make it easier to form a union by streamlining the election process, by allowing a simple card check where expressing majority support would be sufficient. Also, it would require access to new employees to certified unions, in order for them to explain the benefits of union membership.

In doing so, we would be standing up for our teachers, public servants, government workers and more. I know how important unions are when it comes to strengthening our economy and lowering the rates of poverty throughout our communities. To view my comments on this issue, please visit this site: <https://bit.ly/2LJT9IF>.



Standing in solidarity with immigrants and children

It was 155 years ago when Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation freeing enslaved African-Americans from many southern states, but it was during slavery when individuals were forcibly torn apart from their families and friends. Separating families was a way to control and oppress slaves, leaving them isolated and depressed.

Fast forward to 2018, where the president has enforced his zero-tolerance policy in separating children from their mothers, fathers and loved ones at the U.S. and Mexico border. The images we've seen of children being housed in warehouses or encampments with foil blankets are alarming.

That is why I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 1000, to urge Trump to reverse his zero-tolerance family-separation policy that has led to 2,000 children being taken from their parents. Separating families does nothing to create a safer border. I stand with our immigrant families.



The Vince Lombardi Super Bowl Trophy made its way to the Capitol. Congrats to the Philadelphia Eagles!